

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

REFERENCES

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19. REACTION OF TWO SALTICID SPIDERS TO A BRIGHT PATCH OF LIGHT

In the afternoon at about 2 P.M., my son was sitting idly in an arm chair fiddling with a hand mirror. The sunlight coming from the window was reflected from the mirror as a bright circular patch on the ceiling. He suddenly drew my attention to the antics of a spider clinging to the ceiling next to the reflected circle of sunlight. When the light patch was moved a few inches in front, the spider followed the patch. He moved it to the sides and then to the rear. Each time the spider followed the light patch on the ceiling. Taking the mirror from him I manoeuvred the light patch in all possible directions and angles upto a few feet from the spider. The spider turned, faced and followed the patch every time. After watching its antics for a couple of minutes I

collected and preserved the spider for identification.

Next day we noticed another spider on the wall of the bed room and repeated our manoeuvres with the light patch. This spider too repeated the behaviour pattern of the earlier spider of following the light patch. This spider too was collected and preserved.

I sent both the spiders to my friend Dr. B. K. Tikader, Deputy Director, Zoological Survey of India, Western Regional Station, Poona for identification. He has very kindly sent me the following identification:—

Family SALTICIDAE

- 1. *Marpissa dhakuriensis* Tikader 1 ♀
- 2. *Marpissa mandali* Tikader 1 ♀

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